



Gen. Cutler and 63rd Troop Command Brigade Commander Col. Mandi Murray present Spc. Steven Braley with an encased flag at the 1460th Transportation Company Freedom Salute. Braley, shown with his wife Erica, was one of 140 Soldiers to be honored at the ceremony for his service in Iraa.



A groundbreaking ceremony signifies the start of an expansion project at the Pontiac Armory for the 1775th Military Police Company. From left to right, 2nd Lt. Terrica Rusher, Gen. Cutler, Congressman Joseph Knollenberg, Gen. Robert Taylor, 1st Sgt. Greg Russo.



Gen. Cutler and Gen. Taylor present the Purple Heart to Staff Sgt. Anthony Williams, Spc. LynMarie Serrano, and Spc. Gregg Godbey, 1462nd Transportation Company, for their service in Iraq. A number of Michigan Guardsmen from units across the state have earned the Purple Heart, including additional Soldiers from the 1462nd.

* * From the desk of * * * The Adjutant General *

You make all the difference in the world

I appreciate this opportunity, as we close another busy and challenging year, to thank each one of you, both Guard members and family members, for an incredible year of service to our nation. I have been in the Michigan National Guard for over 32 years now and I have never been prouder of this organization than I am today. Our Soldiers and Airmen have served all over this world and have served with tremendous distinction. Our families have shown tremendous strength and courage and have provided outstanding support. Their sacrifices and prayers have made all the difference in the world, as we have answered our nation's call.

Our Michigan National Guard is busier today, than it has been since WWII. Since September 11, 2001, we have mobilized over half of the Michigan National Guard. In my two years as your adjutant general, I have had the privilege of attending numerous unit departure ceremonies, unit homecomings, and Freedom Salutes. I have also had the opportunity recently to present Purple Heart Medals to four great young Americans. Sadly, I have also attended the funerals of three of our courageous young soldiers during this past year. Interestingly, the common theme at each of these events has been one of pride. Whether it's a deploying Soldier or Airmen, a family member sending off a loved, a wounded guard member, or a family member who has lost a loved one, their first words have been expressions of pride. They talk about how proud they are to serve; and for family members, how proud they are of their loved one. Many of our wounded guard members have eloquently expressed they're pride to serve, and the fact that they would do it all again. This pride and willingness to serve and to sacrifice is truly humbling

and I am so very thankful for every one of you!

I also want to extend a very special thank you to our family members. You are true heroes in this global war on terrorism. You are making tremendous sacrifices and I truly appreciate it. When Soldiers and Airmen deploy, their greatest concern is always their families. We understand that and have worked hard to provide the best family support we can. Our family readiness groups and our family assistance centers have done some awesome work. As a team, we've also done a pretty good job of raising funds for our Guard Family Support Fund. That fund has met hundreds of emergency financial needs of families across our state. Supporting our families is a total team effort and I want to thank everyone involved. You are truly doing the "Lord's" work and I am tremendously appreciative.

For each one of us, this is an historic time to be serving in the Michigan National Guard. I am thankful for every one of you and I could not be prouder of you. I am truly honored to serve as your adjutant general. Like you, my family and I look forward to celebrating this Christmas season. It reminds us of our freedom to celebrate and the richness of God's blessings. We do wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Thomas Stutler

Maj. Gen. Thomas G. Cutler



A deep core of combat veterans

It is an unparalleled time in the history of our National Guard. In the Michigan National Guard, we have reached the point where nearly 60 percent of our members are currently activated and deployed or have been so within the past three years. This large number of past and presently deployed members will constitute a very deep core of combat veterans for current and future leadership.

For as long as I can remember, the National Guard has invested countless hours and dollars in building and maintaining readiness to insure that we were trained to perform our go-to-war mission. Remember all the time we spent training at Camp Grayling, the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, Fort Custer, and other locations around the world? Only the most clairvoyant observer could have had the remotest idea that such large numbers of Guardsmen would be activated to support such world-wide contingencies as Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, or Iraqi Freedom.

We know that it was through dedicated training events such as annual training, operational readiness inspections, and countless exercises that prepared us to do such magnificent work. We owe a deep sense of gratitude to the training staffs and cadres at our Michigan training sites. For those of you working at our training centers across the state, you can all feel justifiably proud of how your hard work has prepared our Soldiers and Airmen for their current combat operations.

The depth of combat leadership developing across the Michigan Guard is taking place within the entire range of our personnel, both in the officer and enlisted corps. This phenomenon is similar to what I experienced more than

30 years ago when an entire generation of our military was exposed to combat in Southeast Asia. Those lessons have stayed with our more experienced (okay, older like me) officers and NCOs throughout our careers. Deployments over the past five years are now the genesis for developing the latest generation of combat experiences.

While these combat tours are full of lessons and experiences, they are not necessarily the answer for what lies ahead. The way we have fought the last year is unlikely to be how we will fight in the future. If we look back at our training, I doubt many of us expected to fight the current battles in the fashion we are fighting them. If anything, we know that flexibility and adaptability are two of the most important lessons we can ever learn.

I know we are not living in easy times, especially for the families who read this while their loved one is deployed. Families, please know that we think about you and are dedicated to do what it takes to help you while your loved one is gone.

To you all, Soldiers, Airmen, retirees, families, and friends, my family and I extend our very best season's greetings to you and yours. God Bless you all!





Brig. Gen. Heaton presents newly pinned Brig. Gen. Richard G. Elliott, 127th Wing commander, with a general officer's flag at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Nov. 7.

I know we are not living in easy times, especially for the families who read this while their loved one is deployed. Families, please know that we think about you and are dedicated to do what it takes to help you while your loved one is gone.



Gen. Heaton joins other officials as they break ground for an appropriated \$8.5 million dining facility at the Alpena Combat Readiness Training facility. From left to right are Building Contractor Dick Crittenden, Gen. Heaton, Congressman Bart Stupak, Sen. Carl Levin, Gen. Cutler, and base commander Col. Ewin Sansom.

Looking out for one another

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Herb Heavner

"I don't need that anymore."
Words like these offered in the right context can raise a red flag of concern. That concern may be even more serious if the item is a favorite possession or a cherished memento.

This is just one possible scenario that would suggest to the trainied listener that a person may be considering self-harm. Other indicators might include repeated expressions of hopelessness or ambivalence toward life. Or an individual might demonstrate a complete turn around; for example, he or she may have seemed discouraged or depressed for an extended period of time but suddenly is excited about life and becomes the model Soldier or Airman.

Within the National Guard, there are many trained experts such as unit chaplains that can help define suicidal thinking and help you get help for a Soldier or Airman who may be

dangerously close to suicide. But, before a chaplain or other trained professional can help, someone must recognize these often subtle signs. This is where you play a vital role. You may see or hear what no one else would.

Admittedly, there is always the possibility that your buddy is giving away his favorite CD because he is tired of listening to it. Or you may be living in a hooch with someone prone to swings of emotions. It can be difficult to assess and it may be hazardous to your friendship; but, don't be afraid to ask the tough question, "Are you thinking about hurting yourself?" If you are wrong, you can explain that you just want to make sure because you care.

If you believe you are correct in your suspicion, get help immediately. Talk to the chaplain. Encourage your buddy to talk to the chaplain. Talk to

the first sergeant or commander. Take your buddy to the chaplain or another trained professional such as a member of the Combat Stress Team. Remember, YOU may be the best person - or the only person - able to recognize the warning signs in a buddy and ultimately you may be the one to save your buddy's life.

Chaplain Heavner is the new fulltime Joint Force Headquarters support chaplain. He transferred to the Michigan Army National Guard from the 300th Military Police Brigade, Inkstar, Mich., Army Reserve. As a reservist, he served a one year tour at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as the Joint Task Force command chaplain.

Commander in Chief Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm

The Adjutant General
Maj. Gen. Thomas G. Cutler

Assistant Adjutant General for Army Brig. Gen. Robert V. Taylor

Assistant Adjutant General for Air Brig. Gen. Kencil J. Heaton

Assistant Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs
Brig. Gen. Carol Ann Fausone

Assistant Adjutant General for Homeland Security Col. Michael McDaniel

State Public Affairs Officer Capt. Dawn Dancer

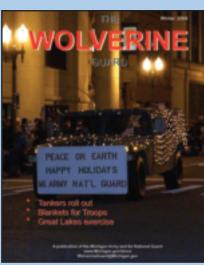
Army Guard Public Affairs Officer Maj. Michael Webster

Air Guard Public Affairs Officer 2nd Lt. Penny Carroll

Co-Editor Army Guard Staff Sgt. Jonathan Stein

Co-Editor Air Guard Master Sgt. Denice Rankin

State Photographer Staff Sgt. Jim Downen



A Michigan Army National Guard hummvee, from the 746th Maintenance Battalion participates in the annual Silver Bells in the City parade held at our state capital. The parade follows the lighting of the state Christmas tree, decorated this year, in red, white, and blue. Cover photo by Staff Sgt. Ron Raflik.

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The Wolverine Guard 2500 S. Washington Avenue Lansing, Michigan 48913 or E-mail us at WolverineGuard@Michigan.gov

Keep the Michigan Army National Guard Strong

Think of how proud you are of your service in the Michigan National Guard. Consider how it has changed your life. Reflect on the fact that being a Soldier is one of the most respected jobs in our country. Pass on the pride, the passion, the patriotism...

Join the Michigan Army National Guard Recruiting Force

Excellent pay
Locations across the state
Medical and dental coverage for you and your family
Annual uniform allowance
30-days paid leave per year

Tax-free housing and subsistence allowance

Monthly retirement pay after 20 years of active service



To wear this patch on your uniform, contact the human resources office at 517-483-5848 or the recruiting and retention command at 1-800-292-1386.

Soldiers at their

fines t

Soldier of the Year Spc. Terrance J. Kinney

Kinney is a material accounting specialist with the 107th Quartermaster Battalion, Jackson, Mich. Kinney has been with the guard for nearly three years. He is a student at Olivet College, Olivet, Mich.



Stewart Medal Receipient Sgt. Tori L. Strebe

Strebe is a radio operator with the HHC, 107th Engineer Battalion, Ishpeming, Mich. Strebe has been with Michigan Army National Guard for three years. She is pursuing a bachelor's degree at Michigan State University where she works as a payroll clerk.



NCO of the Year Sgt. Charles G. Munson

Munson is a Black Hawk crew chief and full-time employee with Company B, 3rd Battalion, 238th Aviation, Grand Ledge, Mich. He has nine years of military service, including six years active duty in the Marine Corps. He is studying flight technology at Lansing Community College.



The National Guard Bureau Recruiting and Retention NCO of the Year Sgt. 1st Class Manual T. Horn

Horn is with the recruiting team at the Pontiac Armory and has 15 years of military service including 11 years of active duty. In the past year, Horn has recruited 50 people into the Michigan Army National Guard. He is taking classes through distance learning at Central Texas College.



Appointments and retirements



Brig. Gen. Richard G. Elliott

Brig. Gen. Richard G. Elliott has been appointed commander of the 1,750 men and women of the 127th Wing, Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

In addition, Elliott will serve as the base host commander to 23 tenant organizations, representing all branches of the military.

Elliott began his military career in 1974 on active duty as an F-4 weapons system officer. After seven years, he joined the Michigan Air National Guard while working for General Motors in management on the civilian-side.

In 1990, he transitioned to a C-130 navigator. In 1996, he joined the full time workforce at Selfridge, serving as the 127th Airlift Group commander. In 2002, he was selected as the 127th Wing vice commander.

Today, Elliott is a command navigator with 3,000 hours of flight and maintains his proficiency as a tactically qualified C-130E navigator.



Brig. Gen. Roger L. Allen

Brig. Gen. Roger L. Allen, deputy commander, State Area Command, has retired after 33 years of service.

Allen assumed duties as the deputy commander in December 2000.

Allen's military career began in 1971 when he graduated from ROTC at Michigan State University and was commissioned an infantry second lieutenant

Throughout his career, Allen has

served in many roles including director of information management, director of intelligence training, and team chief of the Military Liaison Team, Riga, Latvia.

In January 1999, Allen became the director of Michigan's new Youth ChalleNGe Academy.

Under his leadership, six cadet classes have graduated from the 22-week program.



Brig. Gen. Thomas N. Edmonds

Brig. Gen. Thomas N. Edmonds, vice commander, Headquarters, Michigan Air National Guard, has retired after 30 years of military service.

Edmonds started his military career in June 1969 when he earned his commission to second lieutenant after graduating from ROTC at Western Michigan University as a distinguished graduate.

Edmonds served on active and reserve duty with the U. S. Army until June 1988 when he joined the Michigan

Air National Guard. He was assigned as the commander of the 110th Weapons Systems Security Flight at the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base. He later served as a group commander and as director of support, before joining the headquarters staff in October 2000.

In civilian life, Edmonds is a member of the faculty at Hayworth College of Business, Western Michigan University. He retired as the Kalamazoo County Sheriff in November 2003.



Between scenarios, the opposing force antics continue, with the addition of smiles.



Pvt. Ezequiel Enriquez, 125th Infantry Battalion, poses as a terrorist who does not mess around.



A Latvian soldier defends a home in a residential area against raiding forces.

(Below) A sequence of moves as a Latvian soldier throws a grenade simulator to clear a doorway.

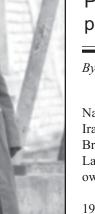


Photos by SSG Ron Raflik

Operation Summer Shield

Partnerships still count as Michigan prepares Latvia for Iraqi Freedom

By Capt. Dawn Dancer



A Russian officer? Not exactly, but Michigan Guardsman Sgt. Eric Dent takes his OPFOR role seriously.

Latvian soldiers escort a captured POW to the headquarters for questioning.

As hundreds of Michigan
National Guardsmen deployed to
Iraq, 35 members of the 46th Infantry
Brigade headed to Latvia to prepare
Latvian soldiers for a tour of their
own in war-torn Iraq.

Latvia gained its independence in 1991 from the former Soviet Union. Over the past decade, through the State Partnership Program, Michigan Guardsmen have partnered with Latvian soldiers to show them how the military conducts itself in a democracy.

This time, it will be the Latvians who demonstrate the art of democracy and the responsibilities of freedom.

During the two week exercise, the partners focused on military operations in an urban environment, patrolling in that urban environment, check point operations, and convoy security.

The soldiers also experienced working with local government, crowd control, reacting to snipers and ambushes, and clearing buildings of insurgents.

A follow up exercise, Operation Summer Shield 2005, is in the planning stages and will continue to be a state partnership event for Michigan as Latvia begins their first year as a full NATO member.



Family First

DEPLOYMENT READY

Family Assistance Centers

Ishpeming	906-486-9181
Sault Ste. Marie	906-632-7861
Camp Grayling	989-344-6143
Wyoming	616-249-2724
Midland	989-835-8543
Lansing	517-334-6886
Taylor	734-946-0793

Develop a plan to strengthen your relationships and maintain open lines of communication with your service member, family and friends.

Educate yourself by getting deployment information from dependable sources.

Parent your children with love and patience. Be reassuring to them. Model positive attitudes and behaviors. Seek help if needed.

Learn a new hobby. Engaging in a leisure activity will keep you busy and can help divert "deployment blues."

Offer your help or encouragement to someone in need. Volunteer time to a worthy cause.

Yield to your emotional needs by recognizing that feelings such as sadness are normal. Talk to a trusted friend or a health care provider.

Manage your time wisely. Set and focus on priorities, acknowledge accomplishments, and accept personal limitations.

Enjoy yourself by becoming your best friend. Ignore negative self talk. Recognize and appreciate your person limitations.

Network with people of good influence. Join or remain connected with a social club or faith organization. Join or form a support group.

Take it easy. Be good to yourself. Treat yourself with loving kindness. Take a walk. Relax. Laugh...it's good for you!

Reward yourself with the simple pleasures in life. See a movie. Go ice skating in the park. Enjoy a cup of hot chocolate with marshmellows.

Exercise. Choose a physical activity that you enjoy. Do it with your children or friends for fun and to help them become physically fit.

Ask for assistance. Call your unit family readiness group or regional family assistance center for referrals to other agencies and support resources.

Diet wisely. Eat nutritous and balanced meals every day. Try some new recipes.

Yes, you can do it! Become deployment ready and make a positive difference in your life and the lives of your loved ones.

EMEDDS to the rescue

By 2nd Lt. Penny Carroll

urricanes.
Tornadoes. Plane
crashes. Terrorist
bombings. Earthquakes.
Floods. America shudders –
call in the Guard.

During a natural or manmade disaster, the Guard works at the request of the governor with local emergency management agencies, medical treatment facilities, providing health care services to those in need at desperate times.

And when community hospitals fill beyond capacity with patients resulting from the disaster, the Air National Guard knows how to help: roll out the Expeditionary Medical Support + 25.

EMEDS is a mobile, 25 plus bed facility. Michigan's EMEDS was deployed from the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center for Great Lakes Response 2004, a disaster exercise hosted by the 127th Wing at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. Using EMEDS, military and civilian personnel practiced joint response to a number of concurrent terrorist events. The response was multiorganizational and multifaceted.

One exercise involved the release of deadly bacteria into a local arena causing thousands of people to become sick, some so severely, they were expected to perish.

"The hospitals have been overwhelmed by patients and we've been asked to augment them," said Col. Brad Eisenbery, exercise commander.

The situation required a mobile hospital, one that could be set-up and operational within 24 hours. An EMEDS of this size costs approximately \$3 million and requires three aircraft or six Army trailers to transport it. Once established, the facility provides space for almost 85 patients and 25 patient beds in its emergency room, operating room, patient ward, critical care ward, radiology, laboratory services, blood bank, pharmaceutical services, public health, infection control, administration, and logistics areas.

"The primary mission of the health care providers in the EMEDS is to stabilize patients and ship them out to a larger hospital for further care," said Maj. Kim Cruchon, Alpena medical cadre.

Participants in the exercise included Guardsmen and active duty personnel from Michigan, Ohio,

Wisconsin, Indiana, and Illinois, plus 23 hospitals from southeastern Michigan, private ambulance companies, Michigan State Police Emergency Management, local police, fire and public emergency management service agencies, hazardous material response teams (including Michigan National Guard's 51st Civil Support Team), emergency management officers, Michigan Disaster Medical Assistance Team, and the

The exercise gauged military and civilian coordination and cooperation during a simulated catastrophic and provided medical training for the medical responders.

EMEDS has also deployed during real-world disasters, including the 2001 floods in Houston, Texas, brought on by Tropical Storm Allison. Eight hospitals in the Houston area were either partially or fully evacuated at the time. The Air Force brought in an EMEDS facility to assist with the patient overflow.

Communities face the dilemma to provide critical care in the midst of a large-scale disaster, while most hospitals are generally at a full capacity. Many communities have plans to set up off-site care facilities through their health departments. Air National Guard medical professionals and EMEDS provide a safety valve to civilian resources.

"Sometimes, it's just knowing who to call," said Vickie Wolber, assistant director of Macomb County Emergency Management. Her statement is indicative that the civilian community has to know and trust the resources in order to utilize them.

"In the event of a terrorist event, hope lies in developing good countersystems," said Maj. Allen Autrey, an emergency casualty officer with the 133rd Airlift Wing in St. Paul, Minn. "And of these counter-systems, proper planning and exercising with civilian agencies is a must."

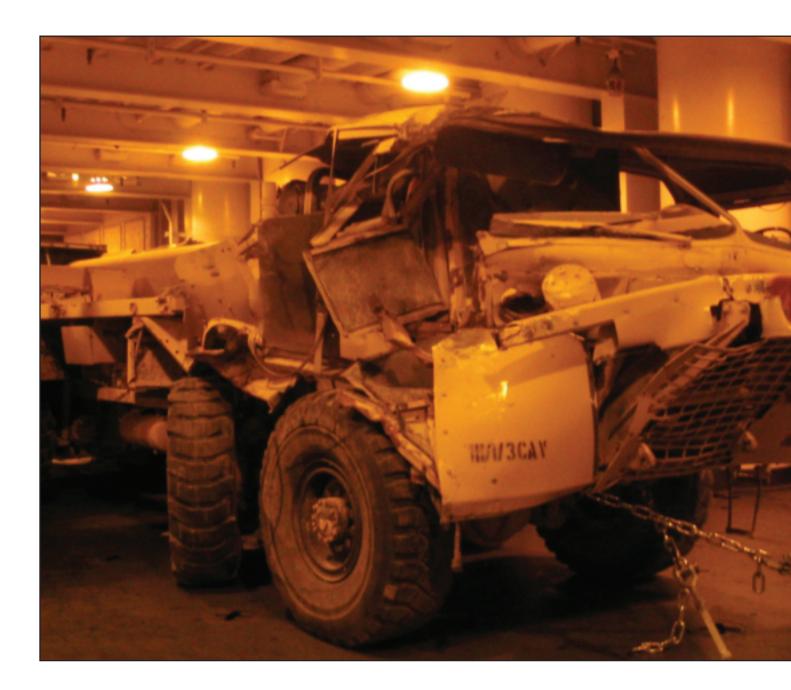
Autrey, who is an emergency room physician in his civilian career, continued, "There is a need in larger communities for a critical care safety valve during a disaster or weapons of mass destruction event. The Air National Guard EMEDS package, combined with an air evacuation component, could provide that strategic outlet and solve one of the major dilemmas in the public sector at this time."

There are plans to have an EMEDS package available in each of the ten Federal Emergency Management Agency regions. Then, during an incident where local or regional response agencies are overwhelmed, the Guard will be called to work side-by-side with civilian counterparts, equipment, and other resources.

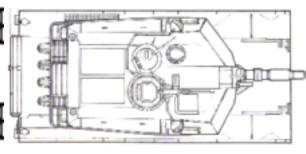


The 127th Wing assembles an EMEDS facility similar to the one shown here. EMEDS is used to stabilize patients during a disaster before they are taken to a larger hospital for further care. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeff Loftin)

It makes me sick to my stomach. You know that you're pulling off a piece of equipment that someone died in.
-Sgt. Barry Ruger



Tankers roll out



By Staff Sgt. Jonathan Stein

Tankers in the 126th Armor Battalion used to roll down tank trails to engage and destroy targets. Today, they pull security details, load and unload ships and rail cars, and prepare for a deployment to Iraq.

The unit has 40 Soldiers serving

on active duty at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, 20 at Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, 50 at Fort Hood, Texas, and seven in Bosnia. These missions don't require tanks, and their tanks are not needed in Iraq, either.

"The battalion is in a transition to meet the new realities," said Lt. Col. Daniel Leatherman, battalion commander. "Clearly, we're changing

Members of the 126th Armor Battalion offload battle damaged equipment like this Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck, in Corpus Christi, Texas. Deployments for the 126th are the most dispersed in the Michigan Army National Guard, with members serving at Selfridge and Battle Creek Air National Guard Bases, Texas, Bosnia, and additional Soldiers headed to Iraq. Photo courtesy of the 126th Armor.

focus. We've been asked to perform a lot of missions we're not used to doing."

"Different missions create new challenges," said Maj. Curtis Royer, battalion executive officer. "A tank platoon is smaller than a security platoon needed for the new missions; so, Soldiers are pulled from all over the unit to make up the difference."

Soldiers like Spc. Steven
Neighbors are guarding the air
bases 24 hours a day with three
shifts. Neighbors doesn't mind
going on base patrols and guarding
aircraft at Battle Creek and he
enjoys the active duty paycheck.
The only strain is not attending
school full time, he said.

Soldiers at the air bases expect to come off active duty this winter after being deployed since January 2003.

At Fort Hood, 1,300 miles away, soldiers are loading and unloading military equipment onto rail cars and ships. In three months they have moved 10,000 items according to Staff Sgt. Andrew McDowell.

The items range from a case of M-16s to a Humvee riddled with bullets from Iraq. The battle damaged equipment brings the reality of Iraq home.

"It makes me sick to my stomach," said Sgt. Barry Ruger. "You know that you're pulling off a piece of equipment that someone died in."

The Soldiers at Fort Hood expect to return in December about the same time other members will leave for deployment to Iraq.

For security reasons, not much can be said about the deployment to Iraq, only that they will be doing a security mission, minus the tank.



Sgt. Thomas Jacobs, Company B, 126th Armor, moves a Bradley infantry fighting vehicle at Fort Hood, Texas. Photoby Sgt. 1st Class Andrew McDowell.

YOUR TURN TO LEAD

Army National Guard Commissioning Programs

STATE OCS

Sixteen month program conducted one weekend a month and two annual training periods.

Requirements:

- Screened by your unit commander
- Minimum of 60 college credits
- U.S. citizen or proof of application for citizenship

Contact Sgt. 1st Class Bo Haugestead at 269-731-6467.

- Pass a Regional Training Institute administered APFT
- Battalion commander letter of recommendation
- Meet height and weight criteria in AR 600-9

ACCELERATED OCS

Eight week active duty course conducted mid June through mid August.

Requirements:

- Same as state OCS, except must have 90 college credits and must furnish SAT/ACT scores
- Applicants must meet appointment standards as prescribed in NGR (AR) 600-100

Contact Maj. Lavetta Bennett at 517-483-5575, 2nd Lt. Maggie Mieras at 517-483-5564, or Warrant Officer Andrew Mosciski at 517-702-5134.

FEDERAL OCS

Fourteen week active duty course conducted at Fort Benning.

Requirements:

 Same as accelerated OCS, except applicants without a four year degree must furnish SAT or ACT scores

Contact Maj. Lavetta Bennett at 517-483-5575, 2nd Lt. Maggie Mieras at 517-483-5564, or Warrant Officer Rhea Pruett at 517-702-5131.

DIRECT COMMISSION

Requirements:

- Reserved for extememly qualified and exceptional personnel in the rank of E-5 or above (E-4s with PLDC may be considered)
- Bachelor's degree
- One year in the Army National Guard proceeding application for direct appointment
- Age may not exceed 35 years
- Pass an Army Physical Fitness Test
- Applicants for the direct commission option must not disenroll from State OCS to pursue a direct commission
- Two years active duty with any branch of service

Contact Maj. Lavetta Bennett at 517-483-5575 or Warrant Officer Rhea Pruett at 517-702-5131.

Blankets for the brave

By Master Sgt. Denice Rankin

ndrea Vaillancourt's husband is preparing to deploy overseas with Battery A, 119th Field Artillery, while Andrea is on a mission of her own.

As the wife of a Soldier and the mother of four children, Andrea understands the anxiety children go through because of an extended separation from their deployed parent. She wanted to find a way to comfort the children when an idea occurred to her: the family readiness group could make homemade blankets for the Soldiers to give to each of their children as a tangible way for the children to be close to their departing parent.

The initial project started a few weeks before Port Huron-based Battery A was scheduled to depart for Fort Dix, N.J., for active duty in-processing. Andrea recruited help and had the blankets ready in time for the battery's departure ceremony.

During the ceremony, the presentation of the blankets elevated the emotions already stirring within the Soldiers and their loved ones. The armory grew silent as each Soldier chose a blanket and handed it to each of their children.

As Andrea and her squad of family volunteers watched, another idea was forming: a



Pfc. Michael Kauzlarich, with his wife Terry and son Kevin, receive a home-made blanket courtesy of the Company A, 119th Field Artillery Family Readiness Group.

blanket for every child of every deploying Michigan National Guard member.

With help from the local media, word got out about the "Blankets for the Brave" project. People from the area wanted to help and Andrea started to receive hand-made blankets of all types, from crocheted afghans to piecework quilts. Some people sent fabric; others sent donations to buy fabric. One volunteer made and donated 50 blankets.

Soon, Blankets for the Brave reached children beyond the Michigan Guard Family, like the child of active duty Soldier Pfc. Mark A. Barbret, a Michigan resident, killed in action, Oct. 14.

Currently, the Alpha Battery FRG blanket stock is down to about 50 blankets, but the group is busy crafting fabric into more good-bye gifts.

If you are interested in "sponsoring" a blanket or donating a hand-made blanket, contact Andrea Vaillancourt at (586) 774-3269. Or simply mail blankets, fabric, or donations to:

A Battery, 119th Field Artillery, FRG 2525 Dove St. Port Huron. MI 48060

You may also want to inquire about the unit cookbook the FRG has created and is selling. Proceeds will support deployment and homecoming ceremonies.

Recruits today, warriors tomorrow

By Capt. Rob Frazer

fc. Brian Parmer is an acting first sergeant stationed at Fort Custer. With just a year and a half of military experience under his belt, Parmer is in a unique position, unlike that of the average first sergeant. Parmer can look his troops in the eyes and say, "I was just there."

"There" is basic combat training and Parmer's job as a student first sergeant for Michigan's new Recruit Sustainment Battalion is to prepare new recruits for their first taste of Army life.

The Recruit Sustainment
Program was established last spring
to train non-prior service Soldiers
entering the Michigan Army
National Guard. Headquartered in
the Charlotte Armory, the Recruit
Sustainment Battalion covers the
state with locations at Fort Custer,
Camp Grayling, and K.I. Sawyer-a
former Air Force base located in the
Upper Peninsula.

"When we wake up at zero-five for PT on Saturday morning, a lot of the new recruits complain it's too early," said Parmer. "I laugh and tell them to get used to it."

A typical drill weekend for the RSB starts with reporting for drill on Friday night. "In-processing is just like the Reception Battalion prior to BCT," said Parmer.

Saturdays are long and challenging. Activities range from drill and ceremony, lifesaving first aid techniques, survival tasks, and weapon familiarization to name a few.

RSB soldiers are not only prepared for the tough physical and mental experience of BCT, but also develop a sense of teamwork. Pvt. Kevin Kuiper from Schoolcraft, Mich., likes the sense of duty and pride he feels belonging to the

Recruit Sustainment Program. "It's challenging and fun to refresh my skills learned at BCT. I love to be in the field and practice land navigation, patrolling and other common tasks with people I've become close to."

Parmer adds, "The program really prepares the soldier for what's going to happen. Having been through the training, I was

with the battalion, I am doing wonderful," said Pfc. Stacy Fisher, of Brighton, Mich., while stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. "I already knew how to sound off, my ranks, general orders, marching, the Army Values, and much more which was helpful during the first few weeks. As a final note, I'd like to say our company with SSG Garcia (Fort Custer RSB Cadre) is

When we wake up at zero-five for PT on Saturday morning, a lot of the new recruits complain it's too early. I laugh and tell them to get used to it.

-Pfc. Bryan Parmer

way ahead of my classmates with basic skills."

The results are clearly encouraging. Many soldiers often write letters back to their cadre describing how training at the RSB gave them the edge.

"Because of the weekends I spent

much more motivated during a weekend than we are here at BCT!"

For further information on the Recruit Sustainment Program and its upcoming events, please contact Capt. Rob Frazer at robert.frazer@mi.ngb.army.mil.



Two recruits in the sustainment battalion pull security in a tactical environment, just as they would in basic training. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ron Raflik.

Brig. Gen. Robert V. Taylor Newly Elected NGAUS Chairman of the Board

I am honored and humbled to have been elected National Guard Association of the U.S. chairman of the board. I look forward to serving our nearly 45,000 association members and the almost half-million men and women they command.

I am also in my fifth year on the Army Reserve Forces Policy Committee and I just completed my eighth year as a member of the NGAUS Board of Directors.

My time on the board has reinforced my belief that NGAUS is an association of state associations. These relationships are critical to our success. I also believe that telling the Guard story on Capitol Hill is, and must remain, our core competency.

We also need to stay

involved in the U.S. military's transformation. Decisions made today have broad implications for our foces well into tomorrow. We need to change, but National Guard force structure and equiment cannot be the bill-payer to transform other components.

Finally, recognition of our annual general confernce as a venue for professional development will continue to be high on my agenda.

Hearing directly from congressional and senior defense leaders is invaluable. It's time for conference attendance to be recognized for what it is: professional development.

It is a privilege to serve as your chairman and I welcome your counsel, ideas, and comments. Together, we will take our message to Capitol Hill and move the Guard forward.

Other NGAUS issues

- Healthcare
- Reduced-age retirement
- Full-time manning
- Individual/organizational equipment for those deployed



Maj. Richard M. Wright
Newly Elected NGAM
President

As your National Guard
Association of Michigan
president, I am very proud to
have the opportunity to serve
with the best Soldiers and
Airmen in our history. I
personally thank each member
that has deployed for our
nation's call. Our veterans,
from all deployments
throughout our history are
truly American heroes.

To our families, you are the best! Your mission on the home front while your loved one is performing military duty exemplifies that you, too, are truly American heroes. It is this team effort that has made this country the land of the free and the home of the

brave.

NGAM's mission is to continuously lobby with members of Congress (at both state and national levels) to obtain and retain benefits for members of the Michigan National Guard. These include pay, education, modern Army and Air equipment, bonuses, veterans rights, medical coverage, and many, many others.

Other NGAM issues

- Life insurance to supplement SGLI
- State tax exemption (an E-4 with 3 years of service saves \$152.50 annually)
- Retain retirement benefits
- Education grants of \$500

News on NGAM Scholarships

The National Guard Association of Michigan has changed its scholarship program. The new system is similar to the old system with a couple of changes. The scholarships will be fewer, but larger. Applicants must be a member of the Michigan National Guard and a current student with good standing in both and

will need documentation to verify so.

Applicants cannot have more than 180 credits towards a four-year degree and must complete a 100 word essay on their educational and military goals.

The process is designed to make the scholarship more prestigious but not make it overly laborious either.

If an applicant applies but is not awarded a scholarship, they shouldn't hesitate to try again. Preference will go to non-NGAM scholarship winners first.

For more information visit www.ngam.org.

N G A U S

N G A M

Michigan Army and Air National Guard Promotions

From August 1, 2004 through October 31, 2004

Air Guard

Sansom, Ewin R.

Lt. Col. Kiel, James W. Leslie, Brian R. Pleiness, Gregg A. Tyson, Robert H.

Maj. Kell, Craig R.

2nd Lt. Finfrock, Nathan

Chief Master Sgt. Dungey, Paul M. Sheridan, Philip C. Riviera, David E. Orlandino, Joseph

Senior Master Sgt. Aguilar, Robert Burl, Richard C. Firman, Douglas R. Hetzel, William H. Mcfadden, Deborah Miller, James D. Moore, Roy C. Reinhardt, Wilfred Szymanski, Kenneth Wiseley, Daniel J.

Master Sgt. Anderson, Keith S. Aplin, Timothy L. Churchill, David J. Cobaugh, Patrick Coleman, Dennis Dubois, Mark A. Grider, Jay W. Hinkle, Clarence D. Maga, Theresa A. Magyar, Anthony

Mayville, Robert Moretz, Lena A. Nordmark, Donald Nowak, Francis J. Rozier, Andre B. Tew, James V. Tyrl, Ronald D. Young, Marvin G.

Tech Sgt.

Babcock, Douglas Baldry, William D. Bishop, Jeremy D. Burrett, James L. Dauterman, William Davis, Reinard W. Francesca, Rita F. Frutos, Thomas A. Gagneur, David R. Galloway, Steven L. Gover, Coraletta M.

Grabinski, Lawrence Herman, Thomas J. Johnson, Wanda K. Koglin, Sean P. Kultala, Rita F. Martin, Kenneth Maxson, Stephanie Mcgowan, Kathy L. Mullens, Larry M. Murphy, John L. Nault, Troy J. Obrien, Bernard F. Pappas, Damian A. Perigo, David M. Tyynismaa, Carl A. Warn, Craig S. Worthing, David A.

Staff Sgt.

Alling, Christopher Bowers, David L. Brimacombe, Brent Calbaugh, Sonia L. Collins, Matthew C. Davis, Eboni C. Goebel, Michael R. Goss, Rayfield Halley, Allen L. Hansen, Joshua J. Hayes, Allen J. Heatley, William F. Jordan, Matthew W. Lab, Chad A. Lobbezoo, Joseph Meeuwse, Nathan J. Merewether, Jeffrey Miller, Mark A. Moore, Nicholas R. Norman, Jermaine Sciarrino, John V. Vanderkooy, John Vanlaan, Joshua R. Wilson, John M.

Tech Sgt. Barrsuell, Jabett M. Berry, Don

Bittenbender, Scott Bruski, Matthew L. Cockerham, William Devries, Brett A. Devries, Bryan J. Dinser, Alexander J. Gault, William D. Gillette, Darrick B. Gillette, Darrick B. Gorags, Christian J. Gorgas, Christian J. Grays, Johnny L. Hatfield, Stacee A. Holm, Jason R. Huska, Adam D. Jackson, James R. Ketelhut, Keith P. Kinstle, Thomas M.

Lauhoff, Ryan M.

Leveque, Anthony Martin, John Q. Mcgowan, Kellie C. Mcgowen, Kellie C. Moore, Marlena L. Priest, James F. Rosendahl, Evan P. Royer, Adam D. Saile, Steven M. Simon, Cristina L. Simons, Cristina L. Sowles, Kurtis A. Stockwell, Paul R. Webster, Bradley

Senior Airman Licht, Aaron M. Paquet, Brandon J.

Airman Palmeri, Marc G.

Army Guard

Brig. Gen. Cannon, Nelson J.

Cosgrove, Mark A. Curell, Douglas J. Francisco, Burton K. Garcia, Valdemar Osburn, Wesley N. Soldano, Roger L. Walter, Gerald I. Westman, Ronnie J.

Lt. Col. Cortright, Daniel P. Schulman, Wendy Sullivan, Sean P.

White, Tyra Y.

Mai.

Bauer, Kimberly A. Blackstone, John E. Kane, Peter M. Rhodes, Roger A. Robson, James W. Woodworth, Thomas

Capt.

Didion, James D. Gerwolds, Bryon D. Harry, Michael P. Klamka, Amanda M. Mcneill, Mark D. Rollins, George G. Stiles, Harry J.

1st Lt. Botsford, Robert H. Caruana, Charles A.

Chan, Stephen O. Chapp, Eva L. Cipriano, Vincent J. Coy, Christopher L. Croft, Brian J. Dawson, Steven A. Dehner, Amy M. Dykes, Robert C. Kenward, Jeffrey T. Lafave, Thomas K. Mays, Lee D. Miller, Mark R. Morton, Andrew J. Rojas, Geovanny A. Runner, Rodney J. Sherman, Todd A. Sims, Karen E.

2nd Lt.

Barton, Corissa M. Blocker, James A. Browning, Peter R. Gensley, Jonathan D. Grant, Mark J. Greenwood, Danny Jean, Josue J. Johnson, Karl W. Koehler, Kurt T Laforest, Joseph S. Linsmeier, Snowelle Mieras, Margaret L. Rogers, Quin M. Rolling, Jason J. Seddon, Christiane A. Simpson, Michael J. Skurda, David W. Spina, Adam J. Vandop, Jared N. Wallington, Daniel J.

Warrant Officer 5 Hinkle, John F.

Warrant Officer 4 Dembowske, Todd

Warrant Officer 3 Belanger, James C. Robinson, Allen C.

Warrant Officer 2 Dexter, Donald T.

Sgt. Maj. Passick, Donald R. Stockford, Gary D.

Master Sgt. Cooper, Thad C. Jesko, Aaron D. Jones, Arthur L. Kik, Thomas R. Krysiak, Kyle K. Ladd, Raymond D. Paton, Jon S. Penfield, Douglas L.

Sgt. 1st Class

Allen, Jeffrey S. Backus, John M. Balwinski, Sharon M. Craven, Richard H. Donnellon, Kevin E. Duckworth, Matthew Duncan, Lisa M. Garza, Heather A. Harris, Paul W. Kellogg, Daniel J. Koscielny, Jeffrey P. Lige, Thomas S. Mayne, Aaron D. Miller, Shawn W. Milne, Geoffrey D. Minix, Jonathan S. Oakley, Bryan K. Pratt, Vernon C. Seppanen, Rory S. Smock, Joseph L. Sullivan, James W. Sumner, Harold A. Whittum, James K.

Staff Sgt. Alford, Justin W. Allen, Barry R. Almeida, Wesley Althoff, John E. Anderson, David H. Arnold, William A. Babcock, Nicholas J. Bird, Dawn M. Bishop, Timothy A. Bradford, Alvin L. Brant, Jason D. Brown, William E. Brugnoli, Joseph A. Burley, Raymond C. Callan, Joseph M. Corey, Bryan H. Dellner, Robert W. Deters, Jason P. Dudek, Katrina M. Esposito, Robert J. Friend, John J. Gingrich, Todd N. Gould, Joseph A. Guritz, Samuel D. Hagerman, Mark E. Hahn, Devin R. Hall, Terrance A.

Hamilton, Edward E.

Harder, Brian G.

Harris, Kirk D.

Hathaway, George Hawkins, Venice Y. Heath, Everett W. Hilton, Matthew L. Hoffman, Michael T. Jennings, Jody J. Jones, Jeremiah J. Kotrba, Kevin J. Krym, Michael J. Lamb, Thomas P.

Larsen, Steven A. Letavish, Timothy J. Mayhew, Clifford R. Mcglaughlin, Georgiana Mills, Preston J.

Mcpheron, Rick A.

Michela, Edward C. Olger, Marcus R. Pendell, Troy D. Peters, Douglas L. Petroskey, Lawrence Proctor, William G. Shook, Micheal A. Stein, Jonathan R. Stevens, Ross T. Surmann, Steven P. Taylor, Edna J. Taylor, John M. Varney, Kenneth R. Willson, Alek E. Zanin, Michael D.

Sgt.

Aguilar, Maria S. Alexander, Amanda Anderson, Robert L. Backus, David A. Beatty, Steven J. Bowers, Joseph F. Branch, Cage Braun, Michael R. Brisson, Eric D. Brooks, Darwin M. Burns, William H. Burton, Michael S. Cabrera, Rafael Carden, Baiwon G. Cavanary, Keith D. Chmielewski, Jeffrey Cochran, Donald A. Conley, Charles B. Dahlen, Sara R. Davis, Anthony D. Day, Calvin J. Depew, Marc A. Dickie, Allen C. Dotson, Jeffrey E. Dukes, Raymond L. Fahnestock, Kenneth Fields, Andrew J. Fillwock, Andrew R. Fitzpatrick, Warren J Goke, Jon L. Gooding, Wendell R. Hart, Douglas J. Hatchew, Tina M. Havens, Shawn M. Haynes, Lalillian Y. Houston, Anthony G. Hulbert, Travis M. Hundey, Nicholas D. Hurban, Christopher Isenhauer, Sean J. Jennings, Owen P. Kissinger, Bethany Krohn, Ricky W. Lafave, Robin A. Lentini, Jerod J. Liwienski, Alexander Mcdaniel, Jerry L. Mcinerney, Patrick Meeusen, Todd E. Michalik, Kristi M. Mills, Daniel R.

Moffat Eric C.

Muns, Renee M. Murphy, Charles W. Nielsen, Paul C. Nycz, Raymond C. Oconnor, Jonathan Parks, Nicole M. Perkins, Micah D. Pulford, Gordon H. Riske, Steven E. Roach, Rodney R. Rondo, Joshua C. Roosen, Christopher Sackrider, Lyndon P. Santana, Ricardo Scardasis, John T. Schmitt, Chad W. Slavin, Nathan C. Sluyter, Larry W. Strebe, Tori L. Stritmatter, Christopher Tate, Michael K. Toupin, Karissa R. Vaughan, Rick P. Vaughn, Robert E. Walter, Mark Waterbury, Rex A. Weaver, Timothy J. Weiler, Patricia J. Williams, Kendrick Woods, Jason A.

Spc.

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Eberhart, Nathan R. Egilsson, Roswell J. Eilola, Timothy W. Elder, Richard A. Emmorey, Amanda J. Espinosa, Leticia M. Essmaker, Juana A. Feria, Ronald E. Ferrier, James J. Fisher, Robert R. Fitzpatrick, C. Fleeman, Richard Fosmore, Brian E. Frick, Jason S Gable, Casey D. Gaiser, Kathryn K. Gander, Michael J. Garvie, Joseph C. Gates, Mark A. Gawkowski, Steven Gaynor, Tricia J. Gregory, Eric J. Haag, Corey A. Hanson, Steven M. Hart, Seth D. Herman, Chelsea A. Hixon, Vernon J. Houck, Arnold J. Howell, William Huntoon, Jason J. Irish, Lisa M. Ivey, Dustin J. Jackson, David R. Johnson, Jerred D. Johnson, Matthew D. Jones, Martin A. Jones, Ronnie L. Jones, Stacey A. Joseph, Jamie D. Kalinowski, Stephenie Karazim, Michael D. Kasten, Cory G. Kennedy, Samuel E. Kimber, Michael J. Kinner, Andrew S. Kissel, Beth A. Kohl, Benjamin H. Kontz, Robert M. Kurbatoff, John G. Lamb, Anthony J. Lamoreaux, Joel M. Lathers, Valerie K. Laurence, Steven E. Liggett, Gary E. Little, Toccara D. Lobert, Bruce O. Lodato, Jack P. Machac, Christine L. Mackowiak, D. Maher, Christopher Maki, Jordy R. Martin, Eric Mason, Peter C Mathe, William D. Matos, Alexis E. Mcgee, Travis R. Mckenzie, Jonathan

Donovan, Robert E.

Dreasky, Duane J.

Duis, Anthony J.

Michels, Joseph R. Miedema, Mitchell Milczewski, Jacob J. Miles, Tyron A. Miller, Mark L. Miller, Robert D. Mitchell, Kevin M. Morse, Robert J. Mozola, Robert. Mumford, Michael Murphy, William J. Musser, Mark A. Muxlow, Scott L. Myers, Adam D. Negri, Justin J. Nelson, Erick D. Newman, Joshua E. Oates, Leola M. Olsen, Kevin D. Oneil, Jorge L. Orregohernandez, Andres Palmer, John E. Parzych, Marcus P. Perez, Victor H. Peters, Jeremiah W. Peterson, Gregory S. Phipps, Michael T. Pietila, William A. Placher, Thomas Porter, Benjamin A. Preczewski, Edward Pueblo, Robert V. Ramiller, Daniel J. Rausch, Christopher Ray, Chad W. Reid, Gary A. Rivera, Robert M. Robinson, Robbie R. Rupley, Robert B. Saberniak, Steven Saleh, Brandon I. Samson, Dustin Schoner, Nicholas J. Scott, Steven M. Segura, Tracy A. Serban, Stephen R. Serna, Carlos Setter, Cassie L. Shipley, Lisa G. Siewert, Jason R. Sinnott, Brian D. Sleight, Marc D. Slosser, Samuel J. Smallish, Matthew Smith, Allen K. Smith, Jeremy G. Snow, William P. Spencer, Amy M. Spratt, Michael S. Squier, Phillip W. Stafford, Timothy Strawser, Micheal O. Szymanski, Chelsea

Vanheest, Charles W. Vanvoorst, Aaron S. Waller, Matthew Ward, Kyle L. Wenzel, Brent A. West, Heather J. Westbrook, John R. White, Jason R. White, Kenneth L. Whittaker, Benjamin Wiest, Emily J. Wilson, Barry L. Wilson, Benjamin C. Winowiecki, David Zarco, Nelson Zeller, James M. Zidarin, Joseph C.

Pvt. 1st Class

Aiuppy, Steven R. Ballinger, David Barns, Thomas A. Bauer, Ryan W. Becker, April A. Becker, Cameron J. Beekman, Karen A. Bennett, Aaron M. Berry, Christopher Betterly, Brian M. Bezemek, Edward A. Bishop, Joseph D. Bishop, Paul C. Bordayo, Hillary A. Bourassa, Anthony Boyd, Bradley Boyd, Brandon R. Brooks, Arbara L. Brown, Lucas J. Brown, Timothy D. Campbell, Isaiah Carlisle, Leroy R. Carpenter, Jarrod S. Clement, Joseph W. Cleveland, Dujuan Collins, Alice L.

Cooley, Elijah D. Dearing, John W. Dobson, Daniel C. Duchon, Joseph A. Easlick, Nathaniel Enriquez, Ezequiel Erridge, Nicholas P. Flory, Charles L. Foster, Michael S. Francis, Kenneth D. Fuller, Jeremiah A. Gorman, Brandon J. Gousetis, Thomas Grantham, Tobias J. Hanrahan, Dane Hodges, Eric J. Horricks, Daniel E. Hubbard, Latanya E. Hudgens, Delano L. Hudson, Skye Humphrey, Andrew Irvine, Robert J. Johnson, Anthony Kaluzny, Lisa M. Kanniainen, Jessica Keller, Matthew E. Kind, Gene S. Kinney, Scott S. Kleinow, Jason A. Knoblauch, David J. Knox, Ryan J. Kuchek, Kyle W. Lange, Donald J. Leach, James L. Leiffers, Leonard C. Lewis, Kevin A. Long, Terrell M. Lowe, Kelly G. Malinowski, Brian Masten, Ryan K. Mcbride, Justin R. Mendez, Luis M. Miller, Benjamin J. Morton, Cardersen

Munn, Grover E. Murphy, Keith R. Myers, Jodie L. Nickels, Aaron L. Noland, Shawn L. Porter, Daniel P. Punches, Rachel M. Redmond, Jawara Reed, Leno Rodriquez, Gonzalo Salowitz, Isaiah Sattler, Joselyn M. Schatzer, Jason M. Schneider, Matthew Sheehan, David W. Shepherd, Joseph A. Snell, Troy W. Snyder, Christian C. Sterling, Michael Stevens, Eric J. Sutton, Darrell C. Tabor, Adam L. Taylor, Nicole J. Tchorzynski, J. Thompson, Robert Tinkham, Brandon Toy, Brandon M. Trudelle, Timothy Vincentycole, Nathanieldomin Warren, Clifford J. Warren, Robert L. Weir, Matthew D. Welch, Nicole E. Williams, Dennis J. Williams, Jennifer Wujek, Christopher



TAPS

Master Sgt. Joseph R. Seres, 76, Aug. 15, 2004 Platoon Sgt. John R. Taylor, 74, Aug. 24, 2004 Maj. Alicia M. Orourke, 57, Sept. 4, 2004 Sgt. 1st Class Robert W. Williams, 61, Sept. 19, 2004 Master Sgt. George E. Horn Jr., 45, Sept. 20, 2004 Master Sgt. Guiseppe Cusena, 87, Sept. 24, 2004 Master Sgt. Richard O. Kilcher, 62, Oct. 3, 2004 Col. Howard G. Brunette, 85, Oct. 12, 2004 Spc. Michael S. Chapman, 33, Oct. 30, 2004

Mullins, Colin Y.

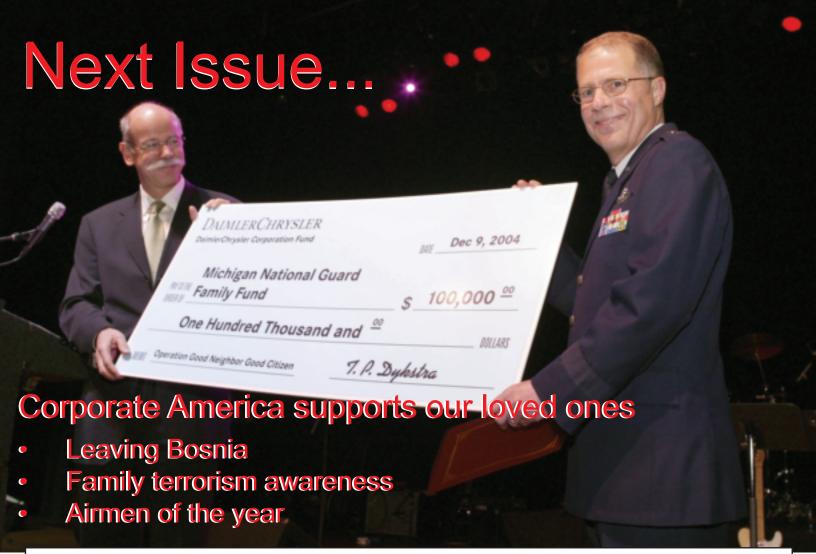
Thomas, Nicholas

Thomas, Quintin L.

Thompson, Rondal

Todd, Christopher

Vandervoord, Timothy



Dr. Dieter Zetsche, president and CEO of DaimlerChrysler Corporation presents a "large" check on behalf of the DaimlerChrysler Corporation Fund to Maj. Gen. Thomas Cutler, Michigan's adjutant general in support of the Michigan National Guard family fund. Read about this and other generous donations in the next issue of "The Wolverine Guard."

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